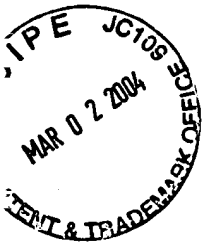


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Patent Application of:

Nordine CHEIKH *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/987,899

Filed: November 16, 2001

Conf. No.: 7754

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Ardin H. MARSCHEL

Atty. Docket: 16517.258

Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with the Carbon Assimilation Pathway

Response to Office Action mailed December 2, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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MAR 10 2004

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed December 2, 2003 (Paper No. 10)

(hereinafter the "Office Action"), Applicants submit the following amendment and remarks.

In the event that any extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Authorization to charge any fees associated with such extensions is given in the accompanying transmittal letter.

Authorization is given in the accompanying Fee Transmittal for FY 2004 to charge the official fees for filing extra claims to counsel's deposit account. Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are due in conjunction with this filing; however, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, authorization is given in the transmittal letter to charge such fees to counsel's deposit account.